

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
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**Date:** 04/14/2023  
**Time:** 11:15 AM  
**Location:** 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
**Committee:** House Health &  
Homelessness

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 0032, SD1 REQUESTING THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD TO CONVENE AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WORKFORCE WORKING GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INCREASE OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN THE STATE.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 32, SD1, which requests the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) to convene an American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter Workforce Working Group for the purpose of promoting the increase of ASL interpreters in the State but would defer to DCAB and the Department of Health as to the implementation of this working group.

The Department recognizes the need and supports efforts to promote an increased availability of ASL interpreters in the State.

Should this measure move forward, the Department supports DCAB in its implementation and agrees to serve on the ASL Interpreter Workforce Working Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on tis measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 32 SD1  
REQUESTING THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD  
TO ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WORKFORCE  
WORKING GROUP TO PROMOTE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN  
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN THE STATE.**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 4/14/2023

Room Number: 329 & Videoconference

- 1 **Agency's Position:** The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports this measure and provides  
2 comments.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure requests the Disability and Communication Access Board  
4 (DCAB) to convene an American Sign Language Interpreter Workforce Working Group to promote  
5 increasing the number of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in the State; and to submit an  
6 interim report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
7 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024 and a  
8 final report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026.
- 9 The SD1 amended the measures by:
- 10 (1) Requesting DCAB, rather than OLA, to convene the ASL Interpreter Workforce  
11 Working Group;
- 12 (2) Requesting a representative from DCAB, rather than OLA, to serve as chairperson of the  
13 working group;
- 14 (3) Updating the list of certified copy recipients;
- 15 (4) Amending its title to reflect its amended purpose; and
- 16 (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and  
17 consistency.

1 OLA notes that the aspirational and exploratory goal of this measure is in line with the mission of  
2 OLA, which is to support the recruitment and retention of language interpreters and translators  
3 providing services to State and State-funded agencies. The establishment of a working group is an  
4 important step toward information-sharing and the development of ideas and action steps to address  
5 the language needs in our State.

6 Furthermore, OLA recognizes that this measure benefits more than the deaf and hard of hearing  
7 community as persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) may also include those individuals  
8 who are deaf or hard of hearing and communicate using sign language interpreters. Therefore, OLA  
9 would like to participate as a member of this working group and is committed to collaborating with  
10 DCAB and other members to further improve language access for all.

11 **Offered Amendments:** Amending the composition of the working group to include a  
12 representative from the Department of Health's Office of Language Access as a member of the  
13 working group.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 14, 2023

## TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Senate Concurrent Resolution 32 SD1 – Requesting the Disability and Communication Access Board to Convene an American Sign Language Interpreter Workforce Working Group to Increase the Number of American Sign Language Interpreters in the State

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports and offers comment on Senate Concurrent Resolution 32 SD1 – Requesting the Disability and Communication Access Board to Convene an American Sign Language Interpreter Workforce Working Group to Increase the Number of American Sign Language Interpreters in the State.

One function of DCAB is to establish administrative rules for the utilization of communication access services, including American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting, provided for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind in State programs and activities; Chapter 11-218, Hawaii Administrative Rules. DCAB's plan of action includes a goal to increase the quantity and quality of communication access providers, including ASL interpreters, in the State of Hawaii. Pursuant to this goal, DCAB issues the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential (HSSLIC) to interpreters who pass the Hawaii Quality Assurance System test or who possess a valid credential issued by an entity recognized by DCAB. In short, DCAB is well suited to convene the proposed working group.

DCAB notes that the Department of Health's Office of Language Access has a strong interest in participating in the proposed working group because there are persons with Limited English Proficiency who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf/blind. Therefore, DCAB offers the following amendment:

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group's membership is requested to include the following members:

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- (9) A representative from the Department of Health's Office of Language Access;  
and
- (10) Additional representatives invited by the chairperson of the working group;  
and

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

**SCR-32-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 7:47:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/14/2023 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in support and particularly express our appreciation to DCAB for stepping up to address this.